



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**VIOLA LIUZZO MURDER**

**PART 5 OF 14**

**FILE NUMBER : 44-28601**

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont (WIC)

DATE: April 5, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.  
VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Hines

Inspector Sullivan in Montgomery, Alabama, has advised that the Grand Jury is considering instant case. Sullivan reported at 4 p. m. Washington time that the informant had been on the stand since the lunch recess and was still testifying. He had been before the Grand Jury approximately two hours at the time of the conversation with Inspector Sullivan.

Sullivan advised that he personally had appeared before the Grand Jury at the outset. He stated this Grand Jury had been considered to be "a good Grand Jury" by the Departmental attorneys and the U. S. Attorney. He stated the Grand Jurors were most noncommittal while he was in there and did very little talking except for one juror who asked several questions.

Sullivan advised that the corridors in the Federal Building were very clear. There have been very few spectators gathering around the Courthouse. There are a number of witnesses, including several Agents from Birmingham who participated in the arrests and searches as well as the FBI Laboratory examiner, yet to appear before the Jury.

Sullivan advised that he did not know how long the jurors would be questioning the informant. There had been no report from the jury room as to the type of testimony or questions being asked by members of the jury. They did not know whether there had been a favorable or antagonistic reaction on the part of members of the Grand Jury to the informant's testimony regarding the Klan.

REC-131

ACTION

Inspector Sullivan is closely following this matter and will advise the Bureau of pertinent developments. *APR*

CLM/cac (7)

44-28601 147

GW

F B I

Date: 4/1/65

Transmit the following in

(Type in plaintext or code).

Via

ARTEL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

ATTENTION: ~~EXHIBITS SECTION~~

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (SELMA) (44-1245) (P)

EXHIBITS SECTION

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL.;  
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka.; ET AL. -  
VICTIMS  
CR - EL

(OO: Mobile)

10  
VV

Transmitted herewith is a map of Montgomery showing the route of the march and three points of interest that pertain to subjects' movements on 3/25/65.

Two blank maps and one large city map are also enclosed for the assistance of the Laboratory. A poster-type map should be drawn for an exhibit showing the map with the parade route and the points of interest as described above.

EXH SECT.

Also transmitted is a map of Highway 80 from the foot of Edmund Pettus Bridge, Selma, to St. Jude's Complex, Montgomery, Alabama. This map contains various landmarks and points of interest, including the crime scene and the camp sites during the march to Montgomery.

This map should be drawn on a poster-type exhibit by the ~~Cardiographic~~ <sup>EXHIBITS</sup>  
Section for use as an exhibit.

ST-110  
REC-99

44-28601-148

It is requested that the above exhibits be prepared and available at Montgomery, Alabama, by 4/5/65.

ENCLOSURE

7  
2 APR 1965

3 - Bureau (Encs. 5) (AMSD)

2 - Mobile

RLF:gmh

(S)

Enclosed in Enclosure.

Re-gated checks prepared  
in Enclosure 4/3/65 and

1/30/65 Shipped to Mobile. Also

for pickup by Selma Agents

THREE

Approved:

on 4/4/65 Sent

M. Per

Special Agent in Charge

per waybill # 42-36-94 (air exp)

3/23 AM  
4/2/65  
QBFBWASH DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 2 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

FBI BIRMGHAM

1258 AM CST URGENT 4-2-65 GDM  
TO DIRECTOR AND MOBILE-SELMA  
FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1236) 1P

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA-VICTIM. LEROY JEROME  
MOTON-VICTIM, CR-EL.

DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY ST. JOHN BARRETT ADVISED NINE P. M.  
APRIL ONE, SIXTYFIVE THAT SUBPOENAS TO APPEAR BEFORE GRAND JURY,  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, MONDAY, APRIL FIFTH, HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR THE  
FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:

[REDACTED] B-7C, B-7A

THESE SUBPOENAS WILL BE DELIVERED TO THE U. S. MARSHAL TO BE  
SERVED FRIDAY, APRIL SECOND.

SELMA ADVISED.

END

WA HFL

FBI WASH DC

P

108100  
60 APR 13 1965

REC 39

44-28601-151  
21 APR 7 1965

EX-102

b-4

Copy to Holmes

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 6 1965

SENT BY CODED TELETYPE

TELETYPE

FBI NEW YORK

10-11PM EST URGENT 4-6-65 MFR

TO DIRECTOR, FBI ---19--- AND MOBILE/SELMA/ 144-1245/  
FROM NEW YORK 144-1140/

I

EUGENE THOMAS, ETAL, VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO DASH VICTIM CR DASH EL1RM

REMOTEL, FOUR ONE SIXTYFIVE, REQUESTING ALL PHOTOS FROM UPI AND AI  
NYC, OF KLAN MOTORCADE AT MONTGOMERY ALA., MARCH TWENTYONE LAST.

UPI HAS ONE PHOTO OF ONE CAR IN FRONT OF CAPITOL MONTGOMERY  
SUBMITTED BY JERRY HUFF, NOW ASSIGNED UPI, RALEIGH, N.C. TELEPHOTO  
ONLY SENT UPI, NYC, WITH NO ROGIINAL NEGATIVE INDICATING PHOTO NOT  
TAKEN BY HUFF. UPI, NYC BELIEVES HE PICKED UP PHOTO FROM NEWSPAPER,  
MONTGOMERY.

F70 APR 14 1965-77

REC-42 144-28601-152

18 APR 7 1965

...9. F OMS FBI WASH DC

cc Hui

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Tele. Room  
Miss Gandy

PAGE TWO

FIVE, EIGHT BY TEN ENLARGEMENTS, WITH NEGATIVES PREPARED BY NYC  
ARE BEING SENT SAC MOBILE/SELMA/ UNDER SEPARATE COVER.

AP, NYC HAS ONE STRIP OF FOUR SHOTS OF PREPARATIONS FOR MOTORCADE  
TAKEN BY SPENCER JONES, AP PHOTOGRAPHER, NOW ASSIGNED PITTSBURGH.

CHECK WITH JONES APRIL SIX BY AP DISCLOSES THESE ONLY ARE  
PHOTOS HE TOOK AND HE WAS ONLY AP PHOTOGRAPHER ON DUTY MONTGOMERY.

FIVE EIGHT BY TEN ENLARGEMENTS WITH NEGATIVES ARE BEING  
SUBMITTED SAC MOBILE /SELMA/ UNDER SEPARATE COVER.

END BJH

FBI WASHDC

RE:

BERNARD S. LEE V. CLARENCE M. KELLEY, ET AL.  
(U.S.D.C., D.C.) CIVIL ACTION NUMBER 76-1185

SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SCLC)  
V. CLARENCE M. KELLEY, ET AL (U.S.D.C., D.C.)  
CIVIL ACTION NUMBER 76-1186

Serial 153 pulled from this file under court order of  
U.S. District Judge John Lewis Smith, Jr., and sent to  
National Archives.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : MR. TOLSON

1 - Belmont  
1 - DeLoach  
1 - Rosen  
1 - McGovern

3/26/65

FROM : A. H. BELMONT

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS:  
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS

McGovern advised that an attorney by the name of Matt Murphy has called the Birmingham Office to state he is representing all of the subjects. Murphy was told that the subjects would be arraigned in the immediate future. McGovern said he was going to call Inspector Sullivan in Selma in order to get the informant back to Birmingham as soon as possible in order that he might be arraigned.

At 2:00 p.m. SAC Ingram called from Birmingham to advise that he thought there might be a problem in the arraignment of the three subjects without the fourth, namely, the informant. He said a Klan attorney, Matt Murphy, has told the office he represents all four men and will be present at the arraignment. Ingram thinks questions will be raised as to the whereabouts of the fourth man at the arraignment and also there may be a question as to why the fourth man (the informant) was not arraigned before the nearest Commissioner

AHB: hmm

56 APR 13 1965

ST-11  
3/11/65

REC-23

44-28601-159

REC-2 APR 9 1965

BELMONT TO TOLSON  
RE: UNSUBS  
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM

Mr. Ingram said Birmingham has been making absolutely no comments to the press and I told him this was correct as the President had made a statement to the press.

Miller & Rosen  
McCormick  
312-465 (b)(6)

*I understand no government  
nor amplifications  
made in ~~any~~ or here as  
President has made  
this statement & stands  
here.*

*#*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 27 1965

FBI WASH DC

TELETYPE

FBI SELMA ALA

10:40 PM CST URGENT 3-27-65 MFH

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MOBILE (SELMA) (44-1245)

EUGENE THOMAS; WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS; 10  
GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA MRS. ANTHONY LIUZZO 3  
DASH VICTIM; LEROY JEROME MOTON DASH VICTIM, CR DASH 11  
CR DASH Section 111 9  
CR DASH 6  
CR DASH 7

[REDACTED]

REC-41

44-38601155

21 APR 9 1965

B7A

B7A

6-111

END PAGE 2  
52 APR 12 1965

PAGE TWO

RECONTACTS WILL BE MADE WITH THESE PEOPLE, AND WHEN PHOTOGRAPHS OF SUBJECTS ARE FURNISHED BY BIRMINGHAM, THEY WILL BE EXHIBITED. THIS INVESTIGATION WILL BE CAREFULLY HANDLED IN ORDER TO AVOID COMPROMISING SOURCE.

**VICTIM LEROY JEROME MOTON**

MOTON HAS BEEN IN CUSTODY AS MATERIAL WITNESS SINCE NIGHT OF MARCH TWENTYFIVE LAST BY ARRANGEMENTS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON THEIR OWN BEHALF. CIRCUIT SOLICITOR ARTHUR GAMBLE, WHO HAS PROSECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MURDER CHARGES, ADVISED THAT HE TALKED TO MOTON THIS DATE CONCERNING HIS SECURITY. MOTON REQUESTED THAT HE BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE HIS WORK AT BROWN CHAPEL AREA IN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT DURING DAY TIME AND TO STAY IN DALLAS COUNTY JAIL AT NIGHT WHERE HE WOULD BE MORE SECURE. GAMBLE INDICATED THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT WAS AGREEABLE WITH HIM AND WOULD PROBABLY BE ADOPTED.

37A

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

The image consists of a series of thick, horizontal black bars of varying lengths and positions, creating a striped pattern. The bars are irregular and appear to be layered, suggesting a stack of objects or a specific experimental visualization. The pattern is dense and covers the entire frame.

B

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION IN MOBILE DIVISION

A REPORT REFLECTING RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION IN THIS MATTER  
AT MOBILE WILL BE SUBMITTED WITHIN FIVE DAY ARREST RULE.

## RACIAL ACTIVITIES, SELMA, ALABAMA

2 What is this?

J. WILSON BAKER, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY, SELMA, ADVISED THIS DATE THAT EVENTS HAVE TAKEN VERY PEACEFUL TURN IN SELMA. HE HAS RECEIVED NO INDICATION THERE WILL BE ANY ACTIVITY UNTIL  
END - PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY. TEMPER OF NEGRO LEADERS APPEARS FAVORABLE AND SHERIFF CLARK HAS PERMITTED ONLY PARADE REQUEST MADE SINCE LIUZZO INCIDENT. HE HAS LEARNED THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF NEWS MEDIA WHO HAVE BEEN OPERATING IN SELMA ARE PULLING OUT FOR CANTON, MISSISSIPPI.

END.

WA. 2224.4FL

FBI WASH DC

TU CLA

THE 20 IS 55 M.E.

$\beta$  7A

# GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This concerns the murder ... a civil rights worker by four Klan members between Montgomery and Selma on 3-25-65.

JHT:las

1000

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

DATE: March 26, 1965

1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen 1 - Mr. Hines  
1 - Mr. Malley 1 - Mr. Swanson  
1 - Mr. McGowan 1 - Mr. Martind

The President called at approximately 1 a.m. this morning to inquire concerning the shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama. SA Harold C. Swanson, a supervisor in the Civil Rights Section who was on duty handling the Alabama situation last night, advised the President of the basic facts of the killing and that upon receiving information that this crime had occurred, the FBI immediately instituted a full investigation.

The President called back at 1:16 a.m. to state that the Bureau should do everything possible around the clock until we find the perpetrators of this heinous crime. He requested that he be kept informed and that any significant news be brought to his attention immediately. He also requested that he be kept informed of the progress of the investigation and requested that Deputy Attorney General Ramsey Clark be advised of the killing.

The President was advised that his observations would be brought to the Director's attention and he was assured that we were already doing everything humanly possible to break this case and that our entire facilities are fully committed to this end.

Immediately thereafter, Deputy Attorney General Ramsey Clark was advised of the killing. He was informed that this was being done at the request of the President and that we had already instituted a full investigation.

## ACTION

This is for information.

REC 1244-28601-15

2 APR 8 1965

WLM/cac  
150 APR 15 1965

CC 117 7012-1

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont *W.J.*

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

DATE: March 26, 1965

1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen 1 - Mr. Hines  
1 - Mr. Malley 1 - Mr. Swanson  
1 - Mr. McGowan 1 - Mr. Martindale

The memorandum prepared for the White House and Attorney General this morning included only the facts concerning the shooting of Mrs. Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, at approximately 8 p.m. yesterday. The autopsy report was also described, however, no information was included concerning the following details.

60 APR 15 1965  
(11)

REC 12

44-2861-15  
2 APR 8 1965

CONTINUED - OVER

COMPLETED

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
RE: UNSUBS; VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM

[REDACTED]

Inspector Sullivan at Selma was immediately advised of the above information and instructed to institute an all-out investigation and to coordinate very closely with SAC Ingram and Inspector McGovern at Birmingham.

[REDACTED]

B-1A

ACTION:

This investigation is getting top priority handling.

A pair of handwritten signatures, one appearing to be "F. B. I." and the other a stylized "G".

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: March 30, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. Mohr  
 1 - Mr. DeLoach  
 1 - Mr. Belmont  
 1 - Mr. Rosen  
 1 - Mr. Malley  
 1 - Mr. McGowan  
 1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS,  
 WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON,  
 GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.  
 COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.;  
 VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM  
 CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

According to Rowe, who is a member of the Eastview Klavern of the United Klans of America (UKA), Thomas, Eaton and Wilkins are members of the Bessemer Klavern of the UKA. Bureau files contain no additional information concerning Eaton. Bureau files contain the following additional information concerning Thomas, Wilkins and Rowe. Information in files being furnished to the Department.

EUGENE THOMAS:

On August 6, 1959, information was received that several individuals participated in an automobile caravan at which time crosses were burned in the Cahaba Heights section near Birmingham, Alabama. Thomas was identified as one of the individuals who was wearing a white hood and robe.

At a meeting of the UKA held November 17, 1961, Thomas was elected as an Assistant Klan Chief of the Bessemer, Alabama, Klavern.

REC 61

44-28601-15

An informant advised that at a UKA meeting held in Fort Payne, Alabama, on 11/14/64, Thomas, Exalted Cyclops, Bessemer Klavern, UKA, announced from the chair that he had received information that a splinter Klan group in Jacksonville did not want the UKA to hold a rally in Jacksonville and that if UKA did this and if Robert Shelton, Imperial Wizard, spoke his life would be in danger.

6 APR 8 1965

On October 6, 1964, Thomas, in company with Robert Shelton, Imperial Wizard, UKA, was in attendance at the Alabama State Fair in Birmingham, Alabama, where the Klan had a booth.

Enclosures (5) *sent 3-30-65*

77 APR 14 1985 (8)

CONTINUED - Over

1 - Mr. Belmont  
 1 - Mr. Mohr  
 1 - Mr. DeLoach  
 1 - Mr. Belmont  
 1 - Mr. Rosen  
 1 - Mr. Malley  
 1 - Mr. McGowan  
 1 - Mr. Hines

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;

After a regular meeting of the Bessemer Klavern on August 14, 1964; one of the Klansmen mentioned that an FBI Agent had proposed that the Klan help themselves and the country by assisting to solve the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham. Thomas made the comment that he did not feel the proposal was a bad idea.

On September 26, 1964, following a Klan rally, Thomas and other Klansmen drove to the Flame Club, Fairfield, Alabama, to investigate allegations that both Negro and white people were in attendance at the club. At the club, they observed Negro and white people intermingling. They left the club and started back to Bessemer stopping at a phone booth on the highway where Thomas made a call to [REDACTED] asking him to meet them. When they met, Thomas explained to [REDACTED] what they had observed and the necessity for the Klan's taking immediate action to stamp out this "race mixing." [REDACTED] asked what he would need and Thomas explained that he would need dynamite, automatic weapons and hand grenades. In about 25 minutes, [REDACTED] returned and gave Thomas one Thompson submachine gun, eight sticks of dynamite and five or six hand grenades. Thomas and the other Klansmen returned to the Bessemer Klavern where they were joined by approximately 35 other Klansmen. They then drove to a park within two blocks of the Flame Club where they parked. When police cars were observed in the area of the Flame Club, the plan to bomb the club was abandoned. Plans were later made to bomb the club on October 3, 1964, but were vetoed by Robert Shelton, Imperial Wizard, UKA. Pertinent information concerning this matter was furnished to local law enforcement agencies and appropriate military and Government agencies. In order to protect the identity of the informant, [REDACTED] was not mentioned in the dissemination. 87

Thomas was interviewed by Agents of the FBI on 1/17/64. Thomas denied any knowledge of the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama. He denied being a Klan member, however, advised that he was personally acquainted with Robert Shelton. He admitted being arrested in 1947, 1949, 1950 and 1957. He claimed he had no knowledge of the use of explosives and would not know where or how to buy dynamite and further stated he had never seen any dynamite used.

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;

On June 8, 1963, the UKA held a rally near Tuscaloosa, Alabama, with Robert Shelton presiding. Thomas was one of the several persons arrested and charged with carrying concealed weapons.

An informant furnished information on November 19, 1964, concerning acquisition of weapons by Klansmen. The informant advised that Thomas had acquired the following weapons: a .38 caliber pistol, a .45 caliber pistol, an automatic shotgun, three 303 Enfield rifles, a 30-30 Winchester rifle, hand grenades, blasting caps, two M-1 rifles, a Browning automatic rifle, a Japanese rifle and a German automatic pistol. This information was disseminated locally to the Alcohol, Tobacco and Tax Division of the Treasury Department, Bureau of Customs and Secret Service. This information was disseminated at the Bureau to the Army, Secret Service and the Internal Security and the Civil Rights Divisions of the Department.

COLLIE LEROY WILKINS:

On 3/11/64, Wilkins was arrested by Hueytown, Alabama, Police Department and charged with "driving while drunk." A revolver was observed under Wilkins' feet and the car was searched. A sawed-off shotgun, a small baseball bat, a slingshot, a Kloran and a Klan robe were located in the car. The Kloran is the booklet setting forth the ritual of the Klan. Wilkins denied Klan membership and declined to discuss Klan matters.

Wilkins was interviewed by Agents of the FBI on 3/11/64. Wilkins stated he was not a member of any Klan organization and denied knowing any prominent members of the Bessemer Klavern. He stated he attended a Klan rally on 5/11/63, and had left meeting at its close and gone home. Wilkins denied owning the Klan robe that was found in his automobile but admitted owning the shotgun. He stated he felt he needed the gun to protect himself against Negroes.

In May, 1964, the Chief of Police, Hueytown, Alabama, advised that he had been contacted by a Klansman in attempts to recover the Kloran and Klan robe found in Wilkins' car. The chief stated that although there was nothing specifically stated by this person as to Wilkins membership in the Klan, there were statements made which left no doubt in his mind that Wilkins was a member of the Klan.

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.

GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

B 7

FBI IDENTIFICATION RECORDS:

Thomas' FBI Identification Record reflects he was first arrested in 1945 on the charge of "drunk." He has five subsequent arrests for assault and battery, reckless driving and carrying concealed weapon.

Eaton's FBI Identification Record reflects he was arrested on 4/22/54, by the Alcohol Tobacco and Tax Division, Treasury Department, Birmingham, Alabama, for "VPL" distilling (probably violation of prohibition laws). He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to two years, suspended and placed on probation for two years.

Wilkins' FBI Identification Record indicates he was arrested in 1961 for "MP of P" (probably malicious destruction of property); was arrested in March, 1964, under the National Firearms Act for possession of a sawed-off shotgun and arrested in December, 1964, for "AIM" (probably assault with intent to maim). For violation of the National Firearms Act, he was sentenced to one year and one day which sentence was suspended and he was placed on one-year probation.

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;

[REDACTED]

B7A

The Identification Records of Thomas, Eaton, Wilkins and Rowe are attached.

ACTION:

Attached for your approval is a letter to the Department enclosing a letterhead memorandum incorporating information in Bureau files along with Identification Records of Thomas, Eaton, Wilkins and Rowe. The dispositions of the arrests are being obtained.

Due to the extremely sensitive position of the informant, it is not felt desirable to furnish information to the Department in writing concerning his status. The Acting Assistant Attorney General will be orally advised of Rowe's informant status.

J. Edgar Hoover  
Director

The following FBI record, NUMBER 5 009 634, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Police Department Alameda California	Eugene Thomas #4463-D-6	January 17, 1945	drunk and 372 Penal Code	
Sheriff's Office Birmingham Alabama	Eugene Thomas #46253	November 12, 1947	assault and battery	
Sheriff's Office Birmingham Alabama	Eugene Thomas #46253	March 5, 1949	reckless driving and public drunk	
Police Department Bessemer Alabama	Eugene Thomas #11295	May 27, 1950	assault and battery and discharging firearms in city limits	
Sheriff's Office Birmingham Alabama	Eugene Thomas #46253	June 5, 1956	assault and battery (Bessemer)	
Sheriff's Office Tuscaloosa Alabama	Eugene Thomas #2269	June 8, 1963	carrying concealed weapon highway intoxication	

44-28601-157

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by \* are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with this record.

ENCLOSURE

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1963 6-267

J. Edgar Hoover  
Director

2

The following FBI record, NUMBER **5 009 634**, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

All descriptive factors (if any) furnished by you match those in our identification file unless herein quoted.

DESCRIPTION AND RELATED DATA:

Race: **White**

Sex: **Male**

Height: **6 feet**

Weight: **170 pounds**

Hair: **Black**

Eyes: **Blue**

Date and Place of Birth: **March 2, 1923 Jefferson County, Alabama**

Scars & Marks: **unknown**

Address: **1519 12 Avenue, Bessemer Alabama in 1963**

Occupation: **Garage**

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerpr contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by \* are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

J. Edgar Hoover  
Director.

1-BUREAU

The following FBI record, NUMBER **5 009 634**, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
	FLASH BY BUREAU: Eugene Thomas, also known as, Gene Thomas If any information or inquiry received notify Bureau Field Division Birmingham their file #157-569 per information received June 1, 1964.			

**THIS PAGE SHOULD NOT BE DISSEMINATED OUTSIDE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by \* are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1968 6-207-004

J. Edgar 24  
Din

The following FBI record, NUMBER none assigned, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division Birmingham Alabama	William Orville Eaton #Ala N-10569 STATE	April 22, 1954	"VPL" - distilling	October 8 pleaded guilty sentenced 8 years suspension probation 2 years

44-2860-158

Since neither fingerprints nor an identifying number which is indexed in our files accompanied your request, FBI cannot guarantee in any manner that this material concerns the individual in whom you are interested.

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by \* are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

J. Edgar Hoover  
Director

The following FBI record, NUMBER **none assigned**, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

All descriptive factors (if any) furnished by you match those in our identification file unless herein quoted.

**DESCRIPTION AND RELATED DATA:**

Race: White

Sex: Male

Height: 5 feet 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches

Weight: 150 pounds

Hair: brown

Eyes: blue

Date and Place of Birth: April 12, 1923 Limestone County, Alabama

Scars & Marks: Unknown

Address: Acmar, Alabama in 1954

Occupation: Unknown

Alias: W. O. Eaton

**Fingerprint Classification:**

M 32 W IIM 20  
I 32 W MOI

Since neither fingerprints nor an identifying number which is indexed in our files accompanied your request, FBI cannot guarantee in any manner that this material concerns the individual in whom you are interested.

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by \* are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
Director.

The following FBI record, NUMBER 935 070 D, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED ON RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Police Department Fairfield, Alabama	Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr. #9501	May 15, 1960	1. petty larceny 2. destroying private property	1. \$30.00 2. 180 days suspended sentence
Sheriff's Office Birmingham, Alabama	Collie Leroy Wilkins #100830	August 29, 1961	"MD of P (Bess)"	
United States Marshal Birmingham, Alabama	Collie Lee Roy Wilkins Jr. #02005	March 11, 1964	26 United States Code 5851 possession of sawed off shotgun	2 years probation
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division Birmingham, Alabama	Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr. #AN-13 778 NFA	March 11, 1964	National Firearms Act (possession of sawed off shotgun)	pleaded guilty suspended sentence 1 year and 1 day placed on 1 year probatice
Sheriff's Office Birmingham, Alabama	Collie L. Wilkins #100830	November 7, 1964	violation Firearms Act assault and battery "(Bess)"	
Sheriff's Office Birmingham, Alabama	Collie L. Wilkins #100830	December 3, 1964	"AIM (Bess)"	

*44-2864-154*

**ENCLOSURE**

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by \* are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

J. Edgar Hoover  
Director

2

The following FBI record, NUMBER 935 070 D, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
	FLASH: Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr.			

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by \* are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1963 6-197-000

J. Edgar 24  
Dinner

The following FBI record, NUMBER 935 070 D, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

All descriptive factors (if any) furnished by you match those in our identification file unless herein quoted.

DESCRIPTION AND RELATED DATA:

Race: White

Sex: Male

Height: 69 inches

Weight: 160 pounds

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Brown

Date and Place of Birth: July 25, 1943 Jefferson County, Alabama

Scars & Marks: Unknown

Address: 4005-40 Way Fairfield, Alabama in 1964

Occupation: United Freight Lines Birmingham

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by finger contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by \* are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

FBI

Date: 4/5/65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTELAIRMAIL

(Priority)

Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Gandy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
 FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL  
 VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka;  
 LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS  
 CR - EL

Transmitted herewith for the assistance of the Bureau are five copies of Birmingham report dated 4/5/65 in captioned matter.

In order to expedite handling, copies designated for Mobile have been sent directly to the Montgomery Resident Agency.

The Birmingham Division, even though it has designated copies for the USA, Birmingham and USA, Montgomery, is not making dissemination until Bureau authorization has been received.

ENCLOSURE *attached*  
 3 Bureau (enc-5) (AMSD)  
 2 Mobile - Montgomery (enc-5)  
 2 Birmingham

RGJ:fc  
 (7)

RCI

44-2860-159

18 APR 3 1965

C. C. Wick

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent: \_\_\_\_\_ M Per: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Agent in Charge

4/7/65

1-Mr. Hines

Airtel

To: SACs, Birmingham (44-1236)  
Mobile [unclear]

From: Director, FBI (44-28601)-159

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;  
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA;  
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

ReBHairtel 4/5/65 enclosing report of ASAC Robert G. Jensen dated 4/5/65.

Promptly disseminate above report to appropriate  
Departmental Attorney at Montgomery and USA's Birmingham  
and Montgomery.

JWB/raas

(6)

NOTE: We have already received, reviewed and disseminated reports from Mobile and Montgomery setting forth the bulk of our investigation concerning the shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, Lowndes County, Alabama, 3/25/65 and the arrest of subjects. Report of ASAC Jensen dated 4/5/65 has been reviewed and it contains only negative interviews with persons who were reportedly in several bars and restaurants in Birmingham on the night of 3/25/65 to determine if they saw any of subjects. None of the persons recalled having seen subjects.

MAILED 30  
APR 7 - 1965  
COMM-FBI

77 APR 1 3:265 111  
SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED  
FBI - BOSTON

CINCH  
INSTANT SHOE SHINE

CAF  
GEOPEN  
HOT DRIN  
B7C

FLORIDA  
MARCH 29, 1965

H

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Dept. of Justice  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

The purpose of this letter is to check with you if you have looked into the matter which is on the minds of many people who I have talked to, that is—"what was the purpose of a wife of a Teamster racketeer doing in Alabama" I was a Teamster in Rochester, N.Y. while going to school at night and I know first hand what they are. This man must be a Pizzon of Jimmy Hoffa and you probably have a long file on him.

This is not a publicity stunt Mr. Hoover and your reply will not be shown to a single person; I have too much respect for you and the job you have done for our country.

Every person who talked to me about this picture has said, "she certainly must be some kind of nut to leave her children to run off on such a wild goose chase".

It is my contention, sir that Mr. Johnson opened the door to this question when he had you by his side and said, "Mrs Liuzzo went to Alabama to serve the struggle for justice". The American people look at your picture and see JUSTICE. I believe they expect to get the other side of the picture from you.

B7C

REC-47

44-28607-16C

8 APR 1 1965

ENCLOSURE

Form 12-1-65  
4-6-65  
4-1-1965

CONFIDENTIAL

RESIDENT WARNS KLANSMEN TO GET OUT

# Johnson Declares War On KKK After Killing

## FBI Arrests 4 Alabamans; Wallace 'Sorry'

Editorial, 12-A.

Times Wire Service

WASHINGTON — An aroused and grim President Johnson declared war on the Ku Klux Klan yesterday, calling it "a hooded society of bigots" disloyal to the United States.

He said he will ask new laws to curb what he described as the Klan's "vicious work," suggested Congress investigate its activities and warned Klansmen to quit and "return to a decent society — before it is too late."

THE PRESIDENTIAL denunciation was coupled with his disclosure that the FBI had just arrested four Alabama klansmen in connection with Thursday night's murder of a white woman civil rights worker near Lowndesboro, Ala.

Speaking on nationwide television and radio with FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover at his side, Johnson said, "I cannot express myself too strongly in praising" Hoover and his men for swift action after the slaying of Mrs. Viola Gregg Liuzzo, 39-year-old Detroit mother of five.

OF THE KILLING of Mrs. Liuzzo as she drove along Highway 80 on the route of the Selma-Montgomery civil rights march, Johnson said:

"Mrs. Liuzzo went to Alabama to serve the struggle for justice. She was murdered by the enemies of justice, who for decades have used the rope and the gun, the tar and the feathers to terrorize their neighbors.

"They struck at night, as they generally do, for their purposes can not stand the light of day."

OF KU KLUX KLANSMEN, he said, "My father fought them many long years ago in Texas and I have fought them all my life because I believe them to threaten the peace of every community where they exist. I shall continue to fight them be-



LBJ And Hoover: 'I'll Fight Them All My Life'



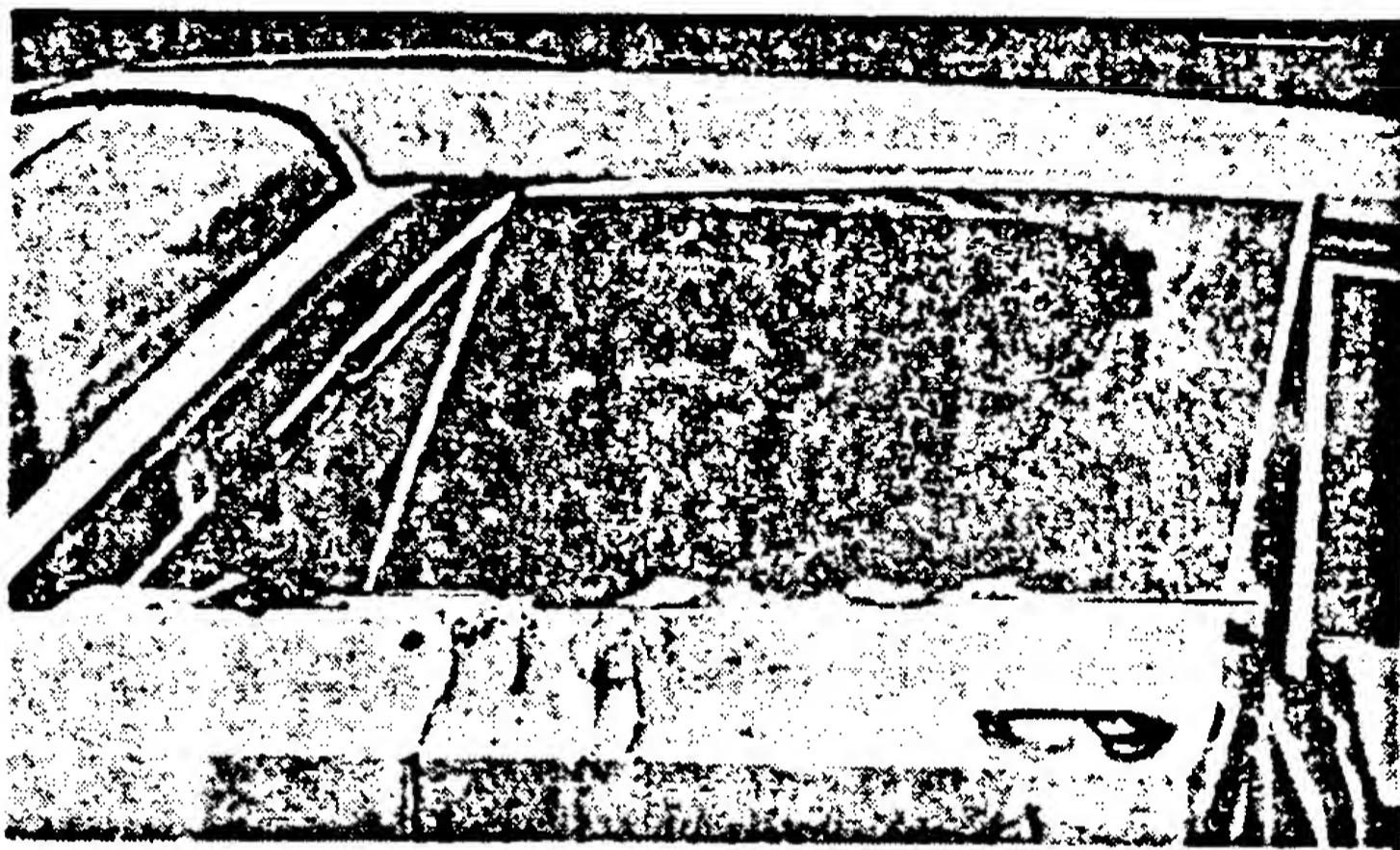
Wallace: 'Still Safer Than N.Y. Subways'

44-28601-160  
ENCLOSURE



**MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO**

believed in the cause.



**Bullets Shattered Car Window, Struck Victim In Head**

UPI Telephone



—UPI Telephone

Anthony Liuzzo: 'Oh, My God, They Killed Her'

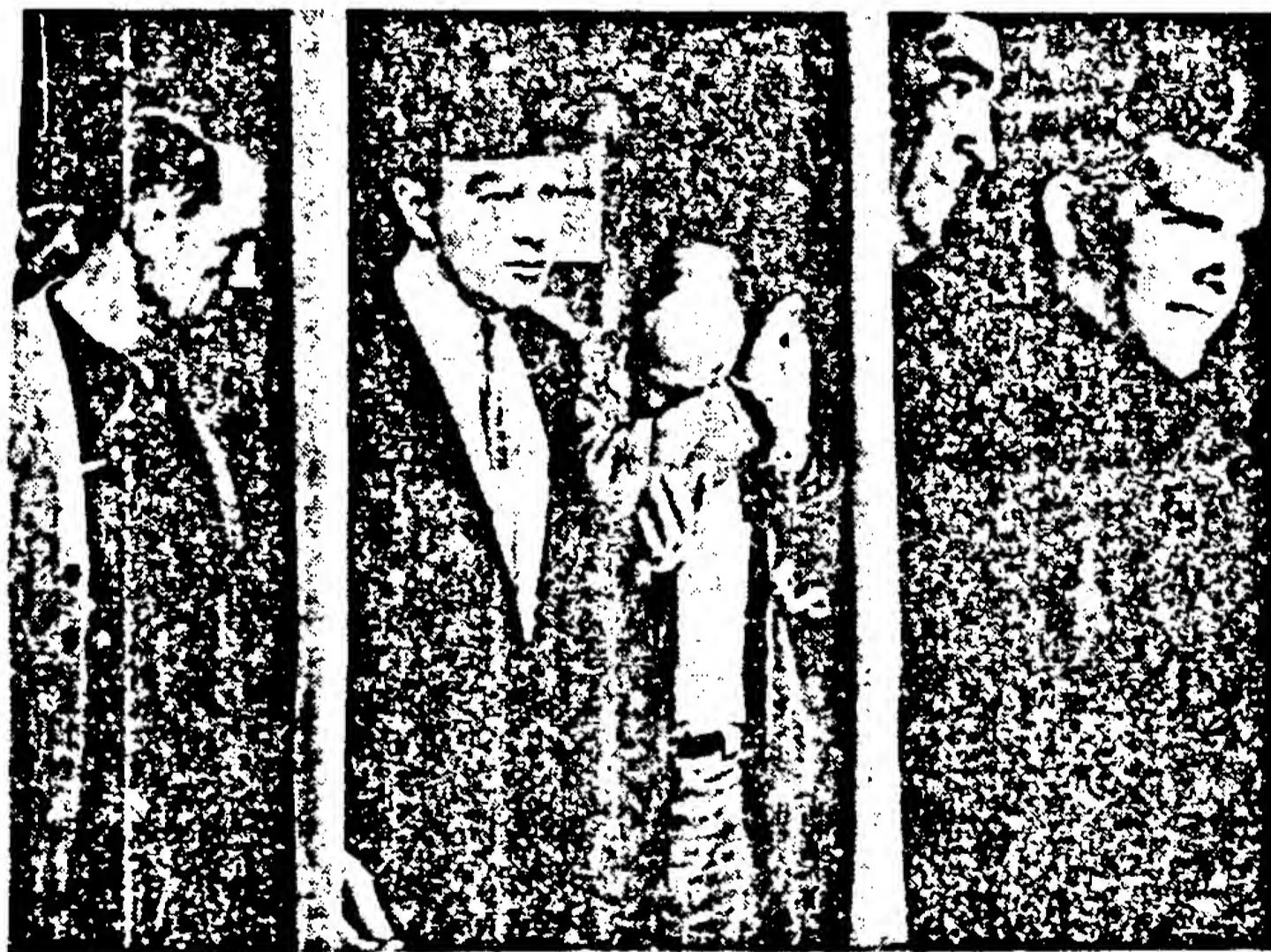
44-28601-160

ENCLOSURE



ANTHONY, 10    SALLY, 6    PENNY, 12    TOMMY, 13  
... in Detroit, four children weep for their slain mother.

UPI Telephoto



EUGENE THOMAS

WILLIAM EATON

CULLIE WILKINS

... in Birmingham, three suspects are brought before judge for arraignment.

—AP Wirephoto

## 'What Kind Of People Are They?'

Times Wire Services

DETROIT — "There were 25,000 people down there and she had to be the one. She had to be the one. My God, it's unbelievable."

Those were the anguished words of Anthony J. Liuzzo, 51, minutes after he learned his wife Viola, 39 had been shot to death while driving back to Selma, Ala., from Thursday's racial demonstration in Montgomery.

Liuzzo, a big husky Teamster official wept openly and cried:

"The dirty rats, the dirty rats. What kind of people are living down here? What kind of people can they be?"

Liuzzo later got a call from President Johnson. Liuzzo said the President agreed with him that the slain woman "did not die in vain."

"BEING AN Italian and a member of the Teamsters Union," Liuzzo told the President, "I know what it is to be pushed around and kicked around."

Liuzzo said the President expressed sympathy on the part of Mrs. Johnson and himself, and then agreed when Liuzzo said: "I don't think she died in vain."

A husky man, Liuzzo had blinked back tears a short time earlier and declared:

"They should put a 90-foot fence around the state of Alabama and let those segregationists live with themselves. They don't deserve to live with human beings."

MRS. LIUZZO, A white Roman Catholic mother of five, had gone to Selma to join the march because "there are too many people who just stand around talking" about what Negroes contend are specifically

(Please see MY, Page 7-A)

44-28601-160.

ENCL

REC-37

April 6, 1965

44-28601-160

C

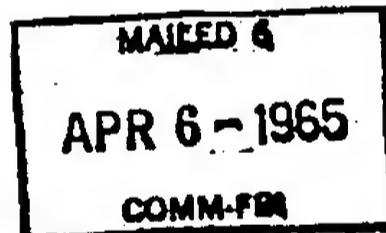
[REDACTED]  
Pinellas Park, Florida

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of March 29th, with  
enclosures, was received in Mr. Hoover's absence.

You may be certain your communication will be  
brought to his attention upon his return.

Sincerely yours,



Helen W. Gandy  
Secretary

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is also not identifiable in Bufiles. Due to the  
controversial nature of the letter and the allegations made against  
Mrs. Liuzzo, a letter over Miss Gandy's signature is being sent  
rather than one over the Director's signature. B7C

WAM:med

(37)

APR 6 1965

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

134

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: 4-2-65

FROM : Mr. F. J. Baumgardner *for*

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS,  
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON,  
GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.,  
COLLIS LEROY WILKINS, JR.;  
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

At approximately 5 p.m., 4-2-65, SAC Ingram of our Birmingham Office called and stated that he had just been told in connection with the captioned case, Departmental attorneys wanted information in our files concerning [REDACTED]

by tomorrow morning, 4-3-65. Mr. Ingram stated Departmental attorneys said these four individuals have been subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury in the captioned case and that they need the information in our files tomorrow morning. Ingram said this poses a tremendous task for his office and that he wanted to know whether he should work his people all night in order to get this information ready. He thought the request was unreasonable inasmuch as the Departmental attorneys knew they were subpoenaing these people and should have given the Birmingham Office more notice. *b7c*

After checking with Mr. Belmont, I told Ingram to go ahead and get the information ready if he could and to get it to the Departmental attorneys at Montgomery tomorrow morning, if possible. I told him he should send the summaries into the Bureau so that we would be aware of what he had furnished to the Departmental attorneys. I advised him he could not possibly get the information to them if he first sent it into the Bureau and that in this instance it would be alright to send it directly to the attorneys at Montgomery but that the summaries should be carefully prepared so as not to reveal any of our informants nor should they include any administrative information.

ACTION:

*REC-22*

*44-28601*

The above is for your information.

*JB:chs*  
(5)

*66 APP - Mr. Belmont*  
*1 - Mr. Rosen*  
*1 - Mr. Baumgardner*

5 APR 8 1965

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS,  
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON,  
GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.,  
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.;  
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

DATE: April 5, 1965

1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

This case involves the shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on the night of 3/25/65. Four subjects have been arrested and charged with violation of Title 18, Section 241, (conspiracy to injure and intimidate persons in the exercise of their rights under the Constitution and laws of the U. S.) in connection with this shooting. The initial reports of the Mobile and Birmingham Divisions were received at the Bureau 3/30/65. They have been reviewed and disseminated to the appropriate U. S. Attorneys and to the Department. The Bureau is now in receipt of two subsequent reports of the Mobile Division dated 4/1/65 and 4/3/65 and two reports from the Detroit Division dated 3/31/65 and 4/1/65. These reports have been reviewed by an appropriate Bureau supervisor and are being disseminated.

The Mobile report of 4/1/65 sets forth detailed information regarding Mrs. Liuzzo's background and her arrest in Detroit on charges of failing to send her children to school. She was fined \$50 and placed on one-year's probation and the sentencing judge was of opinion she was a professional crusader and was convicted because she insisted upon being convicted.

REC-1844-28601-162

No other significant findings in  
post mortem.

B7A

JWH/ras  
(6)

CONTINUED - OVER

79 APR 14 1965

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
RE: EUGENE THOMAS,

[REDACTED] B7A

The Detroit reports of 3/31/65 and 4/1/65 furnish additional details regarding Liuzzo's background indicating that she was emotionally and possibly mentally unstable and was receiving psychiatric treatment.

ACTION:

The Mobile Office has been instructed to disseminate copies of these reports immediately to the U. S. Attorneys at Birmingham and Mobile and to the Departmental Attorney handling this case in Montgomery, Alabama. Copies of each have also been furnished to the Civil Rights Division of the Department.

*DRW* *DRW* *✓*  
*GRG & JH* *JB* *O*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 5 1965

TELETYPE

cc: b7c  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Gandy  
Miss Gandy

FBI SELMA ALA

6:44PMCST URGENT 4-5-65 MFH

TO DIRECTOR  
FROM MOBILE (SELMA) (44-1245)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA; LEROY JEROME  
MOTON DASH VICTIMS. CR DASH ET.

GRAND JURY CONVENED AT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, NINE AM, APRIL  
FIVE INSTANT. ALL GOVERNMENT WITNESSES SCHEDULED EXCEPT SAS LAWRENCE  
GETTINGS, EDWARD LEAHEY AND LAB EXAMINER MARION WILLIAMS WERE HEARD.  
THE BIRMINGHAM SOURCE APPEARED FOR THREE AND ONE HALF HOURS. NO  
TROUBLE EXPERIENCED.

GRAND JURY WILL RECONVENE TEN AM, APRIL SIX NEXT TO COMPLETE  
HEARING OF CASE.

END.

REG B7

WA.... FOR TWO BJH

FBI WASH DC

T U

cc: W. Casper

70 APR 1 1965

44-28601-163

16 APR 8 1965

6-111

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This concerns the murder of civil rights worker Liuzzo by four Klansmen on night of 3/25/65. Government witnesses are testifying before grand jury.

Birmingham source referred to in attached teletype is the informant in this case (subject Gary Thomas Rowe). Inspector Sullivan is following this matter and will keep Bureau advised of pertinent developments.

*As*  
*Re: Byn*  
JJB:pah

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 6 1965

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI BIRMGHAM

104PM CST URGENT 4-6-65 DLR

TO DIRECTOR

FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

EUGENE THOMAS, ETAL. VIOLA LIUZZO, ETAL, VICTIMS. CR, EL.

REBUTEL APRIL FIVE.

REVIEW PERTINENT FILES THIS MATTER REFLECTS INFORMATION  
RECEIVED FROM [REDACTED] DURING PERIOD MARCH SIXTEEN 82, 8  
DASH TWENTYSIX LAST, AS SET FORTH IN BIRMINGHAM AIRTEL APRIL ONE  
NOT PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED TO BUREAU NOR DISSEMINATED LOCALLY.  
EXPLANATIONS BEING SECURED. RECOMMENDATIONS WILL FOLLOW CONCERNING  
ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO WHETHER OR NOT  
LOCAL DISSEMINATION BE MADE AT THIS TIME.

END

GA

WA E RPP

FBI WASH DC

TU

70-APR 14 1965  
cc. Jones

REC 61

44-24601-164  
16 APR 8 1965

6-117

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Ehrhardt
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 6 1965

FBI WASH DC

TELETYPE

FBI MOBILE

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

10-19 PM CST URGENT 4/6/65 VFP

TO DIRECTOR  
FROM MOBILE /44-1245/

Civil Rights

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO DASH VICTIM ~~OR DASH~~  
~~Excluded from~~  
~~5~~ RACIAL MATTERS.

GRAND JURY AT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA REPORTED TO USDJ FRANK  
JOHNSON LATE AFTERNOON FOUR SIX SIXTYFIVE. GRAND JURY REPORTED  
AN INDICTMENT WHICH WAS SEALED PENDING ARREST OF SUBJECTS. WARRANTS  
WERE TURNED OVER TO USM MONTGOMERY FOR EXECUTION. REC 61 44-2601 DETAILS OF  
GJ ACTION UNAVAILABLE PENDING ARREST.

END

16 APR 8 1965

WA ~~CORR LINE FIVE WORD ONE AND TWO SHOULD READ "AN INDIGATION"~~

END

WA LRA

FBI WASH DC  
70 APR 14 1965  
P

F-3 cc - Hines

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO

Mr. Belmont

DATE: 3-31-65

FROM

A. Rosen

SUBJECT:

EUGENE THOMAS;  
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON;  
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS;  
GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.;  
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA  
MRS. ANTHONY LIUZZO;  
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

1- Mr. Belmont  
1- Mr. Rosen  
1- Mr. Malley  
1- Mr. McGowan  
1- Mr. Hines

Johnson  
Belmont  
Mohr  
DeLoach  
Casper  
Callahan  
Cooper  
Felt  
Gale  
Rosen  
Sullivan  
Tavel  
Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Holmes  
Gandy

The report of the investigation in this case conducted by the Mobile Division was received at the Bureau today and it has been reviewed by Bureau supervisor. This report sets forth in detail information previously brought to the Director's attention including the following:

The receipt of the initial report of the shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on the night of 3-25-65, and details of the investigation initiated immediately upon receipt of this report. This investigation includes interview of victim Leroy Jerome Moton who was accompanying Mrs. Liuzzo at the time of the shooting, interview to determine Mrs. Liuzzo's activities in Selma prior to the shooting, and interviews of persons who might have been in contact with victims and/or subjects prior to the shooting.

JWH:nnb (6)

CONTINUED - OVER

58-AFF-15-1965

APR 9 1965

79 JAN 6-1966

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
RE: EUGENE THOMAS

ACTION:

The report is being furnished to the Civil Rights Division of the Department today and Mobile is being instructed to furnish copies to the Departmental Attorney in Montgomery who is handling prosecution of this case and to the appropriate U. S. Attorney.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO **Mr. Mohr**

DATE: March 28, 1965

FROM : **C. D. DeLoach**

SUBJECT: SHERIFF JAMES CLARK  
DALLAS COUNTY, ALABAMA  
ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE FBI

As you know, United Press International (UPI) has quoted captioned individual as saying, on 3/27/65, that Mrs. Viola Liuzzo might not have been murdered if FBI Agents had advised local officers they had a carload of Ku Klux Klansmen under surveillance. According to a teletype from Selma, received in the Bureau at 1:11 a.m. today, Clark telephonically advised the Selma Resident Agency yesterday that he had had a conference with a newsman during the morning of 3/27/65. He said he told the newsman the FBI had never told him about the car bearing the Liuzzo murderers being in the Selma area. He stated he did not know anything about the car and, if he did by an outside chance, he might have picked them up. Clark further stated that he presumed the FBI had the vehicle under observation. He concluded, "I've been getting so much heat from the newspapers on this I had to tell them something. I don't recall receiving any information about the car."

After consultation with Messrs. Belmont and Joseph A. Sullivan, and approval by Mr. Tolson, the attached statement was released at 9:45 p.m., 3/27/65, to Associated Press and UPI.

Since this statement was released, there have been several news reports alleging Sheriff Clark has issued a rebuttal. He has been quoted as saying that is not the first time the Department of Justice has called him a liar. Inspector Sullivan is checking these reports out to ascertain whether Clark has been talking to reporters again, and will report his findings to the Bureau later today. If Clark has been talking, however, I feel we should not attempt to answer any additional remarks he may make regarding this matter. To do so will only feed him more material with which to keep a "feud" going with the Bureau, and I believe we should discourage the development of such a situation, if at all possible.

**Enclosure**

2 ENCL OSURE

J. - M. Tolson

1 - Belmont

1 - Mr. Sullivan

1 - Mr. Gale

1 - Mr. Gale  
1 - Mr. Rosen <sup>65</sup>  
77 APR 16 1965

CDD:252r (7)

44-28601-

~~NOT RECORDED~~

126 APR 12 1965

21 APR 9 1965

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## CRIME-SERIAL

DeLoach to Mohr memo 3/28/65

Re: Sheriff James Clark

Additional developments in the Liuzzo murder include a statement made by the Grand Wizard of the United Klans of America, Robert Shelton, that one of the subjects in this matter had been offered a bribe by the FBI for a confession. This bribe is supposed to consist of several hundred acres of land located in Minnesota. A telephonic contact at 11:35 a.m. today with J. L. McGovern, of the Inspection Division, who is in Birmingham, disclosed that absolutely no promises nor offers were made to any of the subjects. Mr. McGovern said this may have originated with the informant in this case since the latter is telling a variety of stories to his attorney, Matt Murphy, in an attempt to divert suspicion from himself.

Shelton has been making a number of wild claims to the press in the past few hours. He has called the President a "damned liar," and he has said that Reverend James J. Reeb was dying of cancer before he was clubbed to death in Selma. The latter has been labeled as "hokum" by John Sullivan, New England Chairman of the American Friends Service Committee, who said Mr. Reeb had undergone a physical examination shortly before joining the Committee on 9/1/64. This examination disclosed Reeb was "in the pink of health," according to Sullivan.

The Director has also received a telegram from Martin Luther King which reads as follows:

"Let me congratulate you and the FBI for this speedy arrest of the accused assassins of Mrs. Luizzo. The Agents assigned to Alabama have done an outstanding job of containing the tremendous violence and savagery which runs rampant under this surface of Alabama life. There is still much work to be done before Alabama is rid of the racist sickness which pollutes her body politic, I am sure that we can continue to count on four efficient services."

I do not believe this wire should be acknowledged because a reply would only help build up this character and a communication from Mr. Hoover, which King would undoubtedly publicize, will tie us in with him, and put us under an obligation to him. I likewise feel that King's telegram to the Director should not be released to the press for the same reasons. Mr. Belmont concurs in these recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION: I suggest an "in absence" reply

Submitted for information pursuant to Mr. Tolson's instructions.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : MR. MCHE

DATE: March 30, 1965

FROM : W. S. TAVEL

SUBJECT: HANDLING OF UNITED PRESS ITEMS

In accordance with your request, procedure for handling United Press International (UPI) items is as follows:

Original and three copies come off machine. These include many items of no interest to Bureau. Employees put check mark by those which appear to be of interest to Director including any items mentioning Director or FBI, those referring to cases under investigation by Bureau, or outstanding or significant news events. Originals of those items selected for Director are clipped, mounted, and routed directly to Director's Office without background notes. Copies are routed to Messrs. DeLoach, Belmont, and Mohr. Messenger picks up originals and copies from Teletype Unit and delivers to above-mentioned offices each seven minutes during working day.

\*of Teletype Unit

After Director's Office closes in evening and on Sundays, originals are held in Teletype Unit until next morning. Copies for Mr. Belmont are delivered to night and weekend duty agent in General Investigative Division and copies for you (Mr. Mohr) are delivered to night duty agent in Special Investigative Division. After last regular run at 7:15 P. M. on workdays, and on Sundays, Mr. DeLoach's copy is held until next morning.

On Saturdays originals are delivered to Director's Office and copies to other officials as at night with hourly messenger runs being made. There is a duty agent in Mr. DeLoach's office on Saturdays until about 4 P. M. and his copies are delivered there accordingly as long as his office is open. | 44-28601

NOT RECORDED

With respect to item concerning statement in ~~copy of 27 Apr 1965~~ (attached) which appeared on the machine at 2:26 P. M. on Saturday, 3-27-65, this was taken off the machine along with a series of other items, ~~the last of which~~ was also checked to be sent to the Director's Office and which was received on the machine at 3:05 P. M. (copies of these items attached). The Clark item was clipped, mounted, and apparently delivered to the Director's Office on the next hourly run since it was stamped into the Director's Office at 4:16 P. M. Miss Holmes immediately sent it to the Director in the pouch.

Enclosure

1. Belmont

2. DeLoach

3. Mohr

11 APR 1 2 1965

RECORDED

CONTINUED - C 7

Memo to Mr. Mohr from W. S. Tavel  
Re: Handling of United Press Items

Mr. Belmont states he received a copy just after 4 P.M. and that he was then talking to Inspector Sullivan in Selma, Alabama, on the telephone requesting him to get the true facts in the matter. Mr. Belmont has submitted a separate memorandum regarding his handling of this item.

*/ why not? ✓*  
There is no time stamp on Mr. DeLoach's copy indicating time of receipt in his office and Special Agent Hobson H. Adcock, who was on duty in Mr. DeLoach's office, states he received a large number of UPI items during the afternoon but cannot remember having seen the one on Clark's statement although he did not leave until about 4:30 P.M.

The messenger on duty Saturday has no recollection of handling this particular item and the employees on duty in the Teletype Unit likewise cannot remember this item specifically although one of them remembers taking copies of several UPI items to Mr. DeLoach's office shortly after 3 P.M.

RECOMMENDATION:

Submitted for information.

*GHU*

*V*

*ST  
3/3*

*gj*  
Belmont   
Wahr   
DeLoach   
Casper   
*grac* Cotahan   
Conrad   
Felt   
Gale   
Rosen   
Sullivan   
Tavel   
Trotter   
Tele Room   
Holmes   
Gandy

UPI-67

(CLARK)

SELMA, ALA.--SHERIFF JIM CLARK SAID TODAY THERE WAS A "REMOTE POSSIBILITY" THE FATAL SHOOTING OF MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED HAD THE FBI KEPT LOCAL AUTHORITIES ADVISED.

CLARK SAID THE CAR FROM WHICH THE FATAL SHOTS ALLEGEDLY WERE FIRED HAD BEEN STOPPED PRIOR TO THE SHOOTING AND GIVEN A WARNING BY STATE AGENCIES HAVE ALSO

"THE FBI HAD THAT CAR UNDER SURVEILLANCE," CLARK SAID. "THEY (FBI AGENCIES) HAVE ALWAYS WORKED CLOSELY WITH US IN THE PAST BUT THIS TIME FOR SOME REASON THEY DIDN'T ADVISE US OF THIS. IF THEY HAD WE'D HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WATCH FOR THE CAR AND THE MEN. THERE IS REMOTE POSSIBILITY THAT WE MIGHT HAVE AVOIDED THE SHOOTING."

MRS. LIUZZO, DETROIT MOTHER OF FIVE, WAS KILLED BY A SNIPER'S BULLET WHILE RUNNING A SHUTTLE SERVICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS DEMONSTRATORS WHO TOOK PART IN THE MASSIVE SELMA TO MONTGOMERY PROTEST MARCH.

CLARK SAID STATE TROOPERS INFORMED HIM THAT THE DRIVER OF THE CAR LIUZZO WAS GIVEN A TRAFFIC WARNING TICKET AT 7:20 P.M. EST--THURSDAY ABOUT ONE HOUR BEFORE THE DETROIT WOMAN WAS KILLED ALONG A DESOLATE SECTION OF U.S. 80, NEAR LOUNDESBORO.

CLARK SAID THE TROOPERS TOLD HIM THE WARNING TICKET WAS GIVEN TO THE KLANSMEN AT TYLER'S CROSSROADS, ONLY ABOUT 10 MILES FROM THE SCENE OF THE SHOOTING.

"I WONDER IF THE ARMY WAS EVER ADVISED BY THE FBI ABOUT THIS CAR. IF WE HAD KNOWN ABOUT IT WE WOULD HAVE TRIED TO KEEP THE CAR UNDER SURVEILLANCE. THE ARMY WAS IN CHARGE OF THINGS AT THAT TIME BUT IT WOULD HAVE SENT OUT A SMALL GROUP TO WATCH THE CAR."

"THE SHOOTING DIDN'T HAPPEN IN MY COUNTY. KCLARK IS SHERIFF OF DALLAS COUNTY. THE SHOOTING OCCURRED IN LOUNDESBORO. I REGRET THAT IT HAPPENED BUT I'VE BEEN GETTING TELEGRAMS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY BLAMING ME FOR IT."

"WE HAD A MARCH TODAY ON THE COURTHOUSE, AND THE DEMONSTRATORS INDICATED I WAS PARTLY TO BLAME FOR WHAT HAPPENED. IF THEY WANT TO BLAME ANYBODY THEY OUGHT TO MARCH ON THE FEDERAL BUILDING," HE SAID.

"THE FEDERAL BUILDING IS ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND HOUSES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND FBI OFFICES."

3/27--TD226PES

rem Tavel →  
mhr 3-30-65  
W.C. mhr

ENCLOSURE 44-28601-  
WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE  
ENCLOSURE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

DATE: March 30, 1965

FROM : N. P. CALLAHAN

SUBJECT: THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD  
MARCH 29, 1965

## SENATE

Pages 5936-5987. Senator Williams, (R) Delaware, placed in the Record an article written by Paul Hope entitled "Baker Case Party Girl Admits Being Ex-Red" and published in the Washington Sunday Star on March 28. Williams stated "Mr. Hope's article is based upon information obtained by the investigators of the Rules Committee and the FBI concerning the manner in which party girls had been used by Mr. Baker and his associates. - - - It is most regrettable that this phase of the inquiry developed by the FBI was so noticeably ignored by both the committee and the Justice Department in their most recent report." The article comments on activities of Ellen Rometsch and states "Last December, the Justice Department showed some members and staff personnel of the Rules Committee an FBI file on Mrs. Rometsch. The committee incorporated a summary of the file in its minutes, but the Democrats voted against going any further into the matter. This portion of the committee's proceedings has not been made public and is not expected to be." - -

Pages 6011-6012. Senator Dodd, (D) Connecticut, spoke concerning the President's statement announcing arrest of four members of the Ku Klux Klan for the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo. Dodd included the text of the President's statement and a brief statement he issued in support of the President's comments. Mr. Dodd stated "Appropriately, J. Edward Hoover was standing beside the President at that press conference and I say this because Mr. Hoover's outstanding agents in the field worked throughout the night to find the perpetrators of this outrage. And it was especially appropriate to have Mr. Hoover there, because what better reply could there have been to the charges that the FBI has not been zealous enough in protecting civil rights proponents and in fighting the Ku Klux Klan."

- 1 - Mr. Tolson - enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Mohr - enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Belmont - enclosure
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach - enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Rosen - enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan - enclosure
- 1 - Mr. D. C. Morrell - enclosure

**CONTINUED - OVER**

144-286  
NOV 22 1968  
176 APP 1

APR 1965

Memorandum to the Director  
Re: The Congressional Record

SENATE - continued

Adjournment: Until Thursday, April 1, 1965, at 12 noon.

HOUSE

Page 6055. Congressman Gathings, (D) Arkansas, spoke concerning the economic boycott of Alabama suggested by Dr. Martin Luther King. Gathings stated "I implore Dr. King to please permit the schoolchildren of Alabama to participate in the school lunch program by the utilization of surplus food commodities, - - - - . At this point, Congressman Andrews, (D) Alabama, stated "I hope the gentleman will remember and that the Members of this House will remember that last December Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, one of the greatest Americans of all time, said that this Martin Luther King was the most notorious liar in this country, and Mr. Hoover until this day has not retracted that statement."

Pages 6055-6056. Congressman Gross, (R) Iowa, spoke concerning the Sobby Baker investigation. He included the article written by Paul Hope which was set forth with remarks of Senator Williams earlier in this memorandum.

Pages 6066-6067. Congressman Cleveland, (R) New Hampshire, spoke concerning use of certain materials in construction of public buildings, referring to the substitution of concrete for stone exteriors of new Federal buildings. He stated "Four structures which would have concrete exteriors have recently been authorized for construction in Washington, at a total cost of \$120 million. These four buildings are the Federal Office Building No. 5, the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution, the Federal Bureau of Investigation Building, and a new headquarters for the Housing and Home Finance Agency." Mr. Cleveland included a brochure entitled "Our Beautiful Capital, Will It Be Marred by the New Trend in Federal Building?" (It is to be noted the General Services Administration advised the architects have not yet presented their recommendations to the Fine Arts Commission as to the exterior treatment for our building.)

Page 6074. The House received a letter from the Attorney General transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled "A bill to amend section 4082 of title 18, United States Code, to facilitate the rehabilitation of persons convicted of offenses against the United States." This was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Memorandum to the Director  
Re: The Congressional Record

HOUSE - continued

Adjournment: Until Tuesday, March 30, 1965, at 12 noon.

APPENDIX

There was nothing contained in the Appendix that was of particular interest to the Bureau.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: March 29, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. Casper  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen 1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS; WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON;  
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS; GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.  
VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA - VICTIM  
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

With reference to Mobile teletype 3-27-65, referring to the "five-day arrest rule," the following is set forth:

This case involves the arrest of four subjects on Federal charges by Bureau Agents on 3-26-65, in connection with the fatal shooting of Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on the night of 3-25-65. Mobile, in stating that a report would be submitted within the five-day arrest rule, was referring to the rule set forth in the Manual of Rules and Regulations, Part II, Section 4B, Page 2c, which states, "A report must be sent to the U. S. Attorney within five working days of the taking of a subject into Federal custody." The report will, of course, contain the facts developed upon which the arrest was made in order that the U. S. Attorney may proceed with prosecution without delay.

The purpose of the rule is to insure that any delay in the handling of prosecution of subjects arrested by Bureau Agents cannot be attributed by the U. S. Attorney or the Department to delayed reporting on the part of the Bureau. With respect to this case due to its importance, Mobile Division, where the shooting occurred, and the Birmingham Division, where the arrests were made, have both been instructed that the investigation of this matter must be handled on an expeditious basis and the report of the arrests submitted no later than 3-30-65, to the Bureau for clearance before being furnished to Departmental attorneys.

ACTION:

For information.

JWH:hw

7

3 APR 15 1965

REC 44-2860-168

APR 6 1965

COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON

F B I

Date: 4/7/65

Transmit the following in

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority)

**TO: DIRECTOR, FBI**  
**FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1238)**  
**SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL.**  
**VIOLA LIUZZO, aka.;**  
**ET AL - VICTIMS**  
**CR - EL**

ReBuairtel to Birmingham, 3/30/65.

Following is a listing of arrests and disposition of same for the four subjects in this case:

<u>Arresting Agency</u>	<u>Date Arrested and Number</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
-------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------	--------------------

WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON:

Alcohol & Tobacco Tax Div., B'ham, Ala.	4/22/54 #Ala N-10569	State charge Viol. of Prohibition Law-distilling	10/8/54, pleaded guilty, sentenced 2 yrs. suspended probation 2 yrs
---	-------------------------	---	---

(3) - Bureau  
(2) - Birmingham  
RCA (TVA)  
(5)

56 APR 19 1965

Special Agent in Charge

EJ/9

REC-22  
44-38601-189

17 APR 9 1965

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_ B7

C. C. W. C. I.

3/14/65  
B7

BR 44-1237

<u>Arresting Agency</u>	<u>Date Arrested and Number</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
-------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------	--------------------

EUGENE THOMAS:

Alameda, Calif., PD	1/18/45 #4463-D-6	Drunk and 372 Penal Code	Released 1/19/45 on \$25 bail ordered forfeited 1/22/45
Sheriff's Office, B'ham, Ala.	11/12/47 #46253	Assault & Battery on wife, LOISE	Charge dismissed 11/21/47 upon re- quest of wife; \$17.65 costs paid by husband
Sheriff's Office, B'ham, Ala.	3/5/49 #46253	reckless --- driving; --- Public drunk -  Affray ---	\$25 & costs 11/16/48; \$5 and costs 3/5/49  \$5 and costs 3/5/49
Bessemer, Ala. Police Dept.	5/27/50 #11295	Assault & Battery --- Discharging Firearms in City ---	\$28 fine paid 5/27/50  Dismissed

BB 44-1236

<u>Arresting Agency</u>	<u>Date Arrested and Number</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
<u>EUGENE THOMAS (Cont'd)</u>			
Sheriff's Office, B'ham, Ala.	6/5/56 #46253	Assault & Battery on wife (Bessemer, Ala)	Pled not guilty on 6/29/56; found guilty, case continued to 9/28/56; dismissed on payment of \$18.40 costs
Sheriff's O Office, B'ham, Ala.	6/8/63 #2269	Carrying concealed weapon and highway intoxication	Nol-prossed on 11/21/63 on motion of State
<u>COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.</u>			
Fairfield, Ala., PD	5/15/60 #9501	(1) Petty Larceny (2) Destroying private property	(1) \$30 (2) 180 days, suspended sentence
Sheriff's Office, B'ham, Ala.	8/29/61 #100830	Malicious Destruction of property	Nol-prossed 12/6/61
USM, B'ham, Ala.	3/11/64 #02005	26 USC, 5851 possession of sawed off shotgun	2 yrs. probation
Alcohol & Tobacco Tax, B'ham, Ala.	3/11/64 #AN-13788 NFA	National Firearms Act (possession of sawed off shotgun)	Pled guilty, suspended sentence 1 yr 1 day, placed on 1 yr probation

BH 44-1236

<u>Arresting Agency</u>	<u>Date Arrested and Number</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
<u>COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR. (Cont'd)</u>			
Sheriff's Office, B'ham, Ala.	11/7/64 #100830	Violation Firearms Act, Assault & Battery (Bessemer)	Case pending, no date for trial
Sheriff's Office, B'ham, Ala.	12/3/64 #100830	Assault with intent to murder	Pled not guilty 1/5/65; found not guilty same date

FBI WASH DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APP

TELETYPE

FBI SELMA ALA

5:29PMCST URGENT 4-8-65 MFH

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MOBILE (SELMA) (44-1245)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, AKA. ET AL. DASH  
VICTIMS, CR EL.

REMOTEL APRIL SEVEN LAST.

NO PERTINENT INVESTIGATION REMAINING MOBILE DIVISION.

UACB. DAILY TELETYPE SUMMARY WILL BE DISCONTINUED EFFECTIVE  
WITH THIS SUBMISSION.

END.

WA... RBS  
FBI WASH DC

56APR191965

REC-22

44-28601-170

APR 9 1965

cc: Holmes

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

Heb  
M. J. G.

APR 10  
J

6-117

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: March 31, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.  
VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines

The report of investigation in the Birmingham Division concerning the shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on the night of 3/25/65, has been received at the Bureau and reviewed.

The report contains in greater detail information previously received which has been brought to the Director's attention concerning the story of the incident related by the informant and subject Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., to Agents wherein he identifies the other subjects and furnishes details of their actions.

It also sets forth details of the arrests of the four subjects, their arraignment and their release on bond. In addition, interviews to check out the alibis of subjects are also set forth along with the FBI Laboratory report

## ACTION

Copies of the report are being furnished to the Civil Rights Division of the Department, the Departmental attorney handling this case in Montgomery and the appropriate U. S. Attorney. *44-2860*

## ADDENDUM

REC-41 21 APR 9 1965

Inspector Sullivan has advised that the report of investigation of this matter in the Mobile Office has been submitted and will arrive at the Bureau today. It will be promptly reviewed and appropriate dissemination will be made. You will be advised of additional development

JWH/cac (6)

Apr 1, 1965

**GENERAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION**

This matter concerns the murder of a civil rights worker by four Ku Klux Klansmen between Montgomery and Selma, Alabama, on the night of 3/25/65.

[REDACTED], who furnished the information which led to the arrest of the subjects on <sup>B7D</sup> 3/26/65. <sup>B2</sup>

The subjects and other Klan associates have been making an obvious effort to determine if there was an informant in this matter and, if so, to identify him.

[REDACTED]

Investigation of the conspiracy <sup>B7A</sup> is being aggressively pursued.

DGL:vew

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Rosen

FROM : C. L. McGowan

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.  
VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

DATE: March 29, 1965

1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

At 6:15 p.m. on 3/26/65, ASAC Jensen was telephonically advised that no comments or amplifications were to be made regarding instant case as the President had made a statement and there were to be no additions or changes.

At 6:33 p.m., SA Robert Frye of the Selma Resident Agency was advised of the same information. He was also instructed to insure that the Resident Agency at Montgomery, Alabama, as well as the office at Mobile and all Agents were alerted that there were to be no comments or amplifications made regarding any statements on this case.

CLM/cac  
(5)

REC-99

EX-101

44-28601-15  
16 APR 9 1965

20 APR 10 1965

4-9-65 —

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

1- Mr. Himes

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 9 1965

TELETYPE

TO SAC MOBILE (44-1245)  
FROM DIRECTOR, FBI (44-28601)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.; MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL DASH  
VICTIMS, CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS.

DEPARTMENT PRESENTLY HAS UNDER CONSIDERATION WHAT ACTION  
IT WILL TAKE WITH REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE STATE PROSECUTION IN  
THIS MATTER AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT A DECISION WILL BE MADE AT  
AN EARLY DATE. IN THE EVENT DEPARTMENT AGREES TO FURNISH  
RESULTS OF OUR INVESTIGATION IN THIS MATTER TO THE STATE FOR  
INITIATION OF STATE MURDER PROSECUTION, WE MUST BE PREPARED  
IMMEDIATELY TO FURNISH PERTINENT RESULTS TO THE STATE WITHOUT  
DELAY.

REC-99 44-2860-17

IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT REVIEW ALL REPORTS SUBMITTED IN  
THIS MATTER, TAKE OUT THOSE PORTIONS BEARING DIRECTLY UPON A  
STATE MURDER PROSECUTION AND WHICH WOULD SUPPORT SUCH A  
PROSECUTION AND COMBINE THEM INTO A SINGLE OVER-ALL MEMORANDUM  
PROPERLY LABELED WITH TABLE OF CONTENTS AND INDEX SUITABLE FOR  
DISSEMINATION TO THE STATE AUTHORITIES. THIS MEMORANDUM WOULD  
OF COURSE, INCLUDE FD-THREE ZERO TWO'S OF PERTINENT INTERVIEWS

place \_\_\_\_\_  
almost \_\_\_\_\_  
obj. \_\_\_\_\_  
as per \_\_\_\_\_  
attachment \_\_\_\_\_  
encl. \_\_\_\_\_  
eLocate \_\_\_\_\_  
zone \_\_\_\_\_  
file \_\_\_\_\_  
seen \_\_\_\_\_  
initials \_\_\_\_\_  
level \_\_\_\_\_  
letter \_\_\_\_\_  
tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
clined \_\_\_\_\_  
indiv. \_\_\_\_\_

JWH: mmb (3)

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

SEE NOTE PAGE B.

44-1245-17  
APR 12 1965

TELETYPE TO SAC, MOBILE  
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.

AND LABORATORY REPORT AS THEY ARE SET FORTH IN THE REPORT  
AND EXTRANEIOUS INFORMATION SUCH AS NEGATIVE INVESTIGATION  
AND INVESTIGATION RE KLAN ACTIVITIES NOT PERTINENT TO THE  
MURDER CHARGE ITSELF WOULD BE EXCLUDED. A PROPERTY STATEMENT  
WILL BE INCLUDED AT THE END OF THE MEMORANDUM STATING THAT  
THE INFORMATION IS FURNISHED SOLELY FOR THE OFFICIAL USE OF  
THE PERSON OR AUTHORITY TO WHOM IT WILL BE FURNISHED FOR THE  
PROSECUTION OF THE NAMED SUBJECTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE MURDER  
OF MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE NORMAL  
STATEMENT THAT THE DOCUMENTS CONTAIN NEITHER RECOMMENDATIONS  
NOR CONCLUSIONS OF THE FBI, IT IS THE PROPERTY OF THE FBI  
AND IS BEING LOANED TO YOU. ITS CONTENTS ARE NOT TO BE  
DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE YOUR OFFICE. THIS MEMORANDUM MUST BE  
PREPARED IMMEDIATELY WITHOUT DELAY, AND A COPY FURNISHED TO  
THE BUREAU FOR REVIEW BEFORE ANY DISSEMINATION IS MADE.

NOTE: In anticipation of a request that we furnish results of our investigation to the state for prosecution of subjects for murder of Mrs. Liuzzo which is a more serious charge than the Federal charge, the above instructions are being issued. The instructions for the preparation of the memorandum for dissemination to the state above are in accordance with those previously issued in the Lemuel M. Penn case where we furnished results of our investigation to the State of Georgia under similar circumstances.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 9 1965

TELETYPE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 4/6/65

FROM : ~~RE~~ SAC, MOBILE (SELMA) (44-1245)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL;  
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka  
ET AL - VICTIMS  
CR - EL

Rerep of SA JOSEPH R. CONNORS dated  
3/30/65, at Mobile.

Enclosed for Bureau is thirty four  
photographs of Klan Motorcade on 3/21/65, Montgomery,  
Alabama. One set of the above photographs are being  
sent to Atlanta and Birmingham. Departmental Attorneys  
at Montgomery, Alabama, have been furnished one set of  
these photographs.

Birmingham and Atlanta display enclosed  
photographs to appropriate informants to obtain  
identification of as many Klansmen or automobiles  
appearing in photographs.

SECRET

2 - Bureau (Enc. 34) (RM)  
2 - Atlanta (Enc. 34) (RM)  
2 - Birmingham (Enc. 34) (RM)  
1 - Mobile (1,0)

REC-99

44-28601-17531

RECEIVED IN POLICE APR 8 1965  
EX-101

APR 8 1965  
44-28601-17531

RECEIVED  
GENERAL MAIL SECTION  
RECEIVED

58 APR 20 1965

FBI

LABORATORY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FBI, Mobile (44-1245)

Date: March 29, 1965

*EDGAR THOMAS, et al.*  
*VICEL LIZZO, et al.*  
*Mrs. Anthony J. Luzzo,*  
*LEROY JEROME MOTON, VICTIMS*  
CR - II

*John Edgar Hoover*  
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No.

PC-85454 JK HB BV

Lab. No.

PC-85455 JK

Examination requested by:

Reference:

Examination requested:

Remarks:

Mobile, Birmingham

Evidence personally delivered by SA H. E. Williams  
on 3/28/65; Birmingham airtel 3/27/65  
Firearms-Spectrographic-Microscopic

1965  
03  
02  
COMM-FBI

On 3/26/65 and 3/27/65, SA H. E. Williams, FBI Laboratory, conducted a detailed examination of a light blue 1963 Oldsmobile Dynamic 88, 2-door Holiday sedan, 1965 Michigan license #EJ-9177, located at 1030 Coliseum Boulevard, Montgomery, Alabama, in the Radio Maintenance Shop of the Alabama Highway Patrol. As the result of this examination, items Q1 through Q15 and K1 were obtained.

Specimens Q16 and Q17 were personally delivered to SA H. E. Williams by SA R. H. Eveland (Mobile) in the Montgomery RA on 3/27/65. Items Q1 through Q17 and K1 were personally delivered to the FBI Laboratory by SA Williams on 3/28/65.

This report confirms and supplements the telephonic report furnished Inspector Sullivan on 3/28/65, and Butel 3/29/65, concerning the Laboratory examinations presently underway. You will be subsequently advised concerning the results of the examinations which are not yet completed.

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report), (2) (2 Lab report)  
2 - Inspector Sullivan (B6) - Enclosures, (2) (2 Lab report)  
2 - Birmingham (44-1238) - Enclosure (Lab report)

To: Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Cooper \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED - CIR 3/30/65

58 APR 15 1965

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

Evidence Receipt (to be used in place of correspondence covering evidence submitted to the Laboratory)  
7-16 (4-9-58)

Agency submitting evidence

SAC, Birmingham. (44-1236)

Date

3-29-68

Laboratory #

PC-85464 GY HB

Delivered by

SA M. E. Williams

Accepted by

Suspect

EUGENE THOMAS, et al;

Victim

VIOLA LUIZZO, aka Mrs. Anthony  
LUIZZO, LEROY JEROME MOTON

Offense

CR - EL

Place and date of offense

Alabama

Brief Facts covering case

Prev. exams this case

Yes  No

Evid. Located

Room #

Report to be directed to

SAC, Birmingham

Copies to

Evidence to be returned to

Date of hearing, grand jury, trial, or reason why expeditious handling is necessary

Evidence

Q1 through Q17 and K1

(This space for blocking)

(Use reverse side if necessary for additional evidence)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 4/7/65

FROM : SAC, MOBILE (SELMA) (44-1245)

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS;  
ET AL;  
MRS. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka;  
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS  
CR - EL

Enclosed herewith for Bureau's file are four copies of  
indictment which was returned in the captioned matter by U. S. Grand  
Jury at Montgomery, Alabama, April 6, 1965.

ENC. 4  
JAS/ls  
(4)

EX-10  
ENCLOSURE

REC'D. 44-28601-181

1 APR 9 1965

60 APR 15 1965

**COPY OF INDICTMENT**, which was returned on April 6, 1965, by  
Federal Grand Jury in Montgomery, Alabama.

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF  
THE UNITED STATES FOR THE  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA  
EASTERN DIVISION**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**v.**

**WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON,  
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR.,  
EUGENE THOMAS**

**(18 USC 241)**

**The Grand Jury charges:**

**COUNT 1**

Commencing on or about March 1, 1965, and continuing to on or about March 26, 1965, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS JR., and EUGENE THOMAS, within the Middle District of Alabama, conspired together with each other and with other persons to the Grand Jury unknown to injure, oppress, threaten, and intimidate citizens of the United States in the vicinity of Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, in the free exercise and enjoyment of certain rights and privileges secured to them by the Constitution and laws of the United States, and because of their having exercised such rights as follows:

*44-28611-181*  
**ENCLOSURE**